

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A mat for reducing the disturbance of particulate matter by wind created during the landing of a helicopter on the mat when the mat is placed on the particulate matter, the mat including:

(a) a first wind permeable layer of coarse mesh material; and

(b) a second wind permeable layer of coarse-mesh material, ~~material~~; wherein:

~~wherein the first layer is held in a substantially fixed position relative to on top of the second layer without an intervening layer between the first and second layers, and the first layer is attached to the second layer in a peripheral region; each layer of coarse mesh material includes at least one of a natural fiber and a plastic fiber;~~
~~each layer of the mesh material has a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50 km/h and the first layer is attached to the second layer in the peripheral region.~~

the first and second layer of mesh material is a knitted material with an average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm;

the average separation between the first layer and the second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm;

each layer of the mesh material has a porosity of between 10% and 50%, the porosity being the proportion of surface area of the mesh material which consists of holes rather than fibers; and

each layer of the mesh material has a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50 km/h based on the average stitch length, the average separation, and the porosity of the first and second mesh layers.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The mat according to claim 11~~claim 12~~ wherein each layer of ~~coarse~~-mesh material is formed from plastics fibers.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A helicopter landing mat, including one or more mats according to claim 11, further comprising a peripheral region which has a greater mass per unit area than the combined mass per unit area of each layer of the ~~coarse~~-mesh material.

17. (Previously Presented) The helicopter landing mat according to claim 16, wherein the mat has a length and a width which exceed the rotor span of a helicopter.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing the disturbance of particulate matter on a surface by wind, including the steps of:

(a) covering the surface with the mat of claim 11; and

(b) fixing the mat to the surface at a plurality of points around the periphery of the mat.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein each layer of the mesh material is a knitted material made from plastics fibres with average stitch length of between 2 mm and 6 mm, and the average separation between the first and second layer is between 2 mm and 10 mm, and each layer of the mesh material has a porosity of between 10% and 50% and a wind attenuation factor of between 40% and 80% for wind directed at right angles onto the mesh material at 50km/h.